

Amendments of the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1-56. (canceled)

57. (currently amended) A method for using an interactive media application to substitute pause-time content in place of media that is paused, wherein the pause-time content is other than the paused media, comprising:

providing a user with the ability to pause the media ~~at any time while the media is playing;~~

pausing the media;

~~local to the user;~~ determining ~~targeted~~ pause-time content to play while the media is paused ~~based on at least one of monitored user interests and predetermined criteria defined by the user;~~ and

playing the determined pause-time content by substituting the determined pause-time content in place of the media while the media is paused;

determining whether media data associated with the determined pause-time content indicates that the user should be prevented from accessing a feature of the interactive media application; and

preventing the user from accessing the feature.

58. (original) The method of claim 57 wherein the media is previously recorded media.

59. (original) The method of claim 57 wherein the interactive media application is implemented on user equipment and wherein the media is video-on-demand media that is stored remote from the user equipment.

60. (original) The method of claim 57 wherein the interactive media application is implemented on user equipment, the method further comprising storing the pause-time content locally at the user equipment.

61. (original) The method of claim 57 wherein the interactive media application is implemented on user equipment and wherein the pause-time content is stored remote from the user equipment, the method further comprising allowing the interactive media application to access the pause-time content on-demand.

62. (original) The method of claim 61 further comprising providing the user with the ability to resume play of the paused media.

63. (original) The method of claim 57 further comprising resuming play of the media at substantially the same point at which the media was paused.

64. (canceled)

65. (original) The method of claim 57 further comprising providing the user with the ability to rewind and fast-forward the media.

66. (original) The method of claim 57 wherein the media has associated media data and wherein the interactive media application uses the content of the media data to substitute pause-time content that is associated with the media.

67. (original) The method of claim 57 wherein the pause-time content is selected from the group consisting of an advertisement, a promotion, a trivia game, a musical selection, a graphic, an animation, a program summary, a textual description, and a Web site.

68. (original) The method of claim 57 wherein the pause-time content is broadcast video.

69. (original) The method of claim 57 wherein the media is a television program and wherein the pause-time content is associated with the television program.

70. (original) The method of claim 57 wherein the media is a music program and wherein the pause-time content is associated with the music program.

71. (original) The method of claim 57 wherein the interactive media application is implemented on a personal video recorder.

72. (original) The method of claim 57 wherein the interactive media application is implemented on user television equipment, the method further comprising displaying an interactive overlay over the media that informs the user of options that are available.

73. (original) The method of claim 72 wherein the options that are available to the user are selected from the group consisting of rewind, pause, play, and fast-forward.

74. (original) The method of claim 57 wherein the media is near video-on-demand media, the method further comprising resuming play of the near video-on-demand media by playing a subsequent feed of the near video-on-demand media.

75. (original) The method of claim 74 further comprising displaying information while the near video-on-demand media is paused that displays the time remaining until the next feed of the near video-on-demand media will line up with the point at which the near video-on-demand media was paused.

76. (original) The method of claim 57 further comprising providing the user with the ability to personalize the pause-time content.

77. (original) The method of claim 57 further comprising providing the user the ability to select particular types of pause-time content to be presented by the interactive media application.

78. (original) The method of claim 77 wherein the type of pause-time content is selected from a group consisting of an advertisement, a promotion, a trivia game, a musical selection, a graphic, an animation, a program summary, a textual description, and a Web site.

79. (original) The method of claim 57 further comprising providing the user the ability to prevent particular types of pause-time content to be presented by the interactive media application.

80. (original) The method of claim 57 further comprising providing the user the ability to change the pause-time content that is playing.

81. (currently amended) An interactive media system that substitutes pause-time content in place of media that is paused, wherein the pause-time content is other than the paused media, comprising user equipment configured to:

provide a user with the ability to pause the media;

pause the media;

determine ~~targeted~~ pause-time content to play while the media is paused ~~based on at least one of monitored user interests and predetermined criteria defined by the user;~~
and

play the determined pause-time content by substituting the determined pause-time content in place of the media while the media is paused;

determine whether media data associated with the determined pause-time content indicates that the user should be prevented from accessing a feature of the interactive media application; and
prevent the user from accessing the feature.

82. (original) The system of claim 81 wherein the media is previously recorded media.

83. (original) The system of claim 82 wherein the user equipment is further configured to store the previously recorded media.

84. (original) The system of claim 81 further comprising a remote facility at which the media is stored, wherein the user equipment is further configured to play the media by accessing the media on-demand from the remote facility.

85. (original) The system of claim 81 wherein the remote facility is a media distribution facility.

86. (original) The system of claim 81 wherein the user equipment is further configured to store the pause-time content.

87. (previously presented) The system of claim 81 further comprising a remote facility at which the pause-time media is stored and wherein the user equipment is further configured to play the media by accessing the pause-time content on-demand from the remote facility.

88. (original) The system of claim 87 wherein the remote facility is a media distribution facility.

89. (original) The system of claim 81 wherein the user equipment is further configured to provide the user with the ability to resume play of the paused media.

90. (original) The system of claim 81 wherein the user equipment is further configured to resume play of the media at substantially the same point at which the media was paused.

91. (canceled)

92. (original) The system of claim 81 wherein the user equipment is further configured to provide the user with the ability to rewind and fast-forward the media.

93. (original) The system of claim 81 further comprising media data that is associated with the media, wherein the user equipment is further configured to use the content of the media data to substitute the pause-time content that is associated with the media.

94. (original) The system of claim 81 wherein the pause-time content is selected from the group consisting of an advertisement, a promotion, a trivia game, a musical selection, a graphic, an animation, a program summary, a textual description, and a Web site.

95. (original) The system of claim 81 wherein the pause-time content is broadcast video.

96. (original) The system of claim 81 wherein the media is a television program and wherein the pause-time content is associated with the television program.

97. (original) The system of claim 81 wherein the media is a music program and wherein the pause-time content is associated with the music program.

98. (original) The system of claim 81 wherein the user equipment is user music equipment.

99. (original) The system of claim 81 wherein the user equipment is user television equipment.

100. (original) The system of claim 81 wherein the user equipment is a personal video recorder.

101. (original) The system of claim 81 wherein the user equipment is user television equipment and wherein the user television equipment is further configured to display an interactive overlay over the media that informs the user of options that are available.

102. (original) The system of claim 101 wherein the options that are available to the user are selected from the group consisting of rewind, pause, play, and fast-forward.

103. (original) The system of claim 81 wherein the media is near video-on-demand media and wherein the user equipment is further configured to resume play of the near video-on-demand media by playing a subsequent feed of the near video-on-demand media.

104. (original) The system of claim 103 wherein the user equipment is further configured to display information while the near video-on-demand media is paused that displays the time remaining until the next feed of the near video-on-demand media will line up with the point at which the near video-on-demand media was paused.

105. (original) The system of claim 81 wherein the user equipment is further configured to provide the user with the ability to personalize the pause-time content.

106. (original) The system of claim 81 wherein the user equipment is further configured to provide the user the ability to select particular types of pause-time content to be presented by the user equipment.

107. (original) The system of claim 106 wherein the type of pause-time content is selected from a group consisting of an advertisement, a promotion, a trivia game, a musical selection, a graphic, an animation, a program summary, a textual description, and a Web site.

108. (original) The system of claim 81 wherein the user equipment is further configured to provide the user the ability to prevent particular types of pause-time content to be presented by the interactive media application.

109. (original) The system of claim 81 wherein the user equipment is further configured to provide the user the ability to change the pause-time content that is playing.

110-127. (canceled)

128. (previously presented) The method of claim 69, wherein the television program is provided on a particular channel, the method further comprising:

accessing a database comprising channel information for available channels to identify the channel information for the particular channel; and

determining a genre associated with the television program from the channel information for the particular channel,

wherein determining pause-time content comprises playing pause-time content associated with the genre of the television program.

129. (previously presented) The system of claim 96, wherein the television program is provided on a particular channel, and wherein the user equipment is further configured to:

access a database comprising channel information for available channels to identify the channel information for the particular channel;

determine a genre associated with the television program from the channel information for the particular channel; and

determine pause-time content associated with the genre of the television program while the media is paused.

130. (new) The method of claim 57 further comprising recording the media while the media is paused.

131. (new) The method of claim 57 wherein the media is real-time media, the method further comprising displaying the amount of time that has lapsed between the paused media and the real-time media.

132. (new) The method of claim 131 further comprising displaying the amount of time that has lapsed between the paused media and the real-time media in an overlay.

133. (new) The method of claim 57 wherein the media data indicates that the user should be prevented from performing one of rewinding the pause-time content, fast-forwarding through the pause-time content, pausing the pause-time content and recording the pause-time content.

134. (new) The method of claim 57 further comprising displaying an indicator that specifies that the feature the user attempted to access is restricted.

135. (new) The system of claim 81 wherein the user equipment is further configured to record the media while the media is paused.

136. (new) The system of claim 81 wherein the media is real-time media, and wherein the user equipment is further configured to display the amount of time that has lapsed between the paused media and the real-time media.

137. (new) The system of claim 136 wherein the user equipment is further configured to display the amount of time that has lapsed between the paused media and the real-time media in an overlay.

138. (new) The system of claim 81 wherein the media data indicates that the user should be prevented from performing one of rewinding the pause-time content, fast-forwarding through the pause-time content, pausing the pause-time content and recording the pause-time content.

139. (new) The system of claim 81 wherein the user equipment is further configured to display an indicator that specifies that the feature the user attempted to access is restricted.